

News Release

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USDA HONORS FARM SERVICE AGENCY EMPLOYEES IN ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

WASHINGTON, June 11, 1998 -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman yesterday honored 18 employees of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for outstanding service to American agriculture in the 52nd annual U.S. Department of Agriculture Awards Ceremony.

"I have long felt that public service is one of the most rewarding and satisfying experiences possible," said Glickman. "Being recognized for that service should be equally gratifying. No one merits recognition more than those we honor today."

The employees receiving awards are:

Chris Niedermayer -- For superior managerial performance that resulted in significant improvements in the delivery of disaster assistance programs.

Sally Nunn -- For excellence in financial and debt management of the Department of Agriculture's and the Commodity Credit Corporation's foreign export programs.

Danny Crawford (Athens, Ala.) -- For establishing a Minority Producer Steering Committee to develop and implement proposed policy that will increase minority producer awareness and participation in FSA programs.

Richard Douglas Block (Eugene, Ore.) -- For exceptional achievements in the management and delivery of farm programs in Lane County and throughout the State of Oregon.

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The following individuals were part of groups nominated by other USDA agencies:

Donald Jones & Gregory McDiffett (nominated by Office of the Inspector General) -- For exceptional resourcefulness, creativity, and tenacity in the investigation of improper grain-handling practices resulting in criminal prosecutions and statutory and regulatory improvements.

Debra Borrie-Holtz, Norma Cannady, Marcos Garza, Gary Hilding, Lana Park, Lenoir Simmons, Morris Tate, Verdell Zeigler (nominated by Natural Resources Conservation Service) -- For bold leadership, creativity, and a cooperative Team USDA spirit in re-engineering streamlined administrative processes that work better and cost less.

Sharon Cooney-Smith, Randy Weber, Kimberly Pritchett (nominated by the Office of the Secretary) -- For the historic effort to ensure every Department of Agriculture customer and employee is treated fairly and equitably, with dignity and respect.

Dann Stuart (nominated by the Foreign Agriculture Service) -- For superior and sustained effort in development of the U.S. Government's world food security policy, preparation for the World Food Summit, and negotiation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

Keith Kelly, Administrator of FSA, said that he is proud that so many employees of the Agency were chosen for honors. "When I came to this Agency, I was amazed by everyone's dedication," he said. "People in FSA really care about what they do. They care about doing their best for the people they serve. I offer my hearty congratulations to all of this year's award recipients."

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